

9-1950

## The Rouen Post, September 1950

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# THE ROUEN POST

## NEW 3 - LETTER

Devoted to the interests of the members of B.H. 21 World War I and the 21st Gen. Hosp.  
World War II

September, 1950

Bill Engel, Editor

### THE ROUEN POST IS IN A BARREL

THAT is the reason for this modest size of the present issue. The "Slick" paper editions are a thing of the past, and will not again appear until they can be put on a pay-as-you-go basis. The simple fact is the Rouen Post owes printing bills of \$1148.00 contracted since 1948. It was the hope that voluntary subscriptions would carry the paper along. The present mailing list consists of 845 individuals. In the last appeal for contributions only 119 responses were obtained.

### THIS PUTS US IN THE RED - DEFINITELY

We as a committee have been asked to explore the future of the paper with Bill Engel, our most able editor. It is our opinion that it MUST go on. What better clearing house do we have for information on births, deaths, marriages and other vital activities of "Twenty-firsters?" With another war something more than a possibility, it is all the more important that we maintain our ties, even though they stretch around the world. The paper is to be concentrated chiefly on news, great or minor, about people we know - our old comrades. The news comes from YOU the subscriber; the clearing house is Bill Engel.

### NOW!! TO GET OUT OF THE BARREL

CASH WE MUST HAVE! We can no longer carry on our mailing list those who do not help to pay the freight. Only a contribution will continue to bring you THE ROUEN POST. A generous response can assure the future of the publication.

All donations go to the paper alone. Send your contribution to Justin J. Jackson Treasurer, 7477 Cannon Ave., University City 5, Mo. along with news of you and yours.

Let not your name be among the missing

Dr. Sim F. Beam, Chairman  
Dr. R. W. Kelley Dr. Carl W. Lattner

Editor's Note! The last issue of The Rouen Post cost nearly \$300.00 - and we have not been collecting that kind of dough. There have been many generous and repeating contributors who have carried the load since 1936 and we have managed to get by. However, with mounting costs and the greatly increased mailing list we've got to curtail and operate on a basis whereby we can live within our income.

The writer is heartily in accord with the idea of having this committee take over the job of looking after the finances. If personal interest counts they will do a good job. Having had the full responsibility ever since its inception in 1936 we wish them well. We know a majority of you want the paper to go on - and you can count on Bill Engel to do his bit.

### IN THE INTERIM

However, the lack of proper financing has not been the factor which has caused the long lapse between issues.

It has been contemplated for many months to issue this modified form of The Rouen Post realizing we could not carry on as we had. A motor car accident in January in which Mrs. Engel was seriously injured and hospitalized for a long period at St. Joseph's Hospital in Alton, Ill. (The accident occurred about 12 miles north of Alton) and though less seriously injured, your editor was out of action for several months.

After returning to St. Louis, for weeks there were return trips to visit Mrs. E., managing the household and business, all added together, made the days long and left no time for such pleasurable extra-curricular activities as The Rouen Post. And those duty hours were not lessened when the patient came home still badly crippled. To add to our woes being unable to move about freely, on July 13, Mrs. Engel fell and broke a wrist causing a prolonged setback. Good and sufficient reason for the long delay between issues, don't you think?



We hope this will be the last of our incidents for a long time and that we shall be able to return to one of our most interesting diversions--editing The Rouen Post.

\*\*\*\* \* \*\*\*\*

While on this subject I want to change from the third person writer to a first person "I" and briefly tell you who made possible our recoveries and contributed so much to our personal comfort.

Dr. Bob Anschuetz now residing in Alton, within ten minutes after he received the call from the emergency room of the hospital was on the job. Mrs. Engel was bleeding profusely from an ugly scalp wound. Unhesitating, Bob removed his coat and went to work.

John Wedig came into the X-ray room as the technician was trying to get me to change positions for photographic purposes without results. Under the direction of Dr. Wedig the pictures were made. I asked John after he came out of the dark room what he had learned and smilingly, he answered, "Bill, you only have about 15 fractures, mostly multiple," and I never did learn the truth. I do not know if he was happy that my injuries were not worse or if he was trying to get back at me for spreading a story of his famous horseback ride while a member of the 21st General.

Dr. Oscar Hampton took one of his "days off" to examine Mrs. Engel and consult with Dr. Mira of Alton as to the need for one of several operations. Dr. Mira, an orthopedist, a classmate of Dr. Anschuetz undertook the job of restoring the badly broken body and has done a remarkable job. He served in the Navy during World War II, but possesses the ability and personal qualifications of a "Twenty-firsters."

Stonewall and Mrs. Jackson gave most generously of their time and energy to aid us during our recovery and the return to our home. I find words inadequate to properly express my appreciation. These pages would be filled too quickly if all of their deeds were enumerated.

To Bob and John, to Oscar and Dr. Mira, and to the sisters, nurses and aides at St. Joseph's and to the Jacksons in all humility I say,

"Thanks a million!" How I shall ever be able to repay them in kind I do not know but I am using these columns to let each of you know what they have meant to Mrs. Engel and me. \*\*\*\* \* \*\*\*\*

## REGIONAL REUNIONS

A couple of energetic 21sters, Marty Ferguson of Chicago and Dave Hollander of Monterey Park, Calif., were the leaders in regional reunions which were well attended and are to be repeated. We shall let Miss Knudsen describe the Chicago affair and Dave the one held in California.

\*\*\*\* \* \*\*\*\*

### REUNION IN CHICAGO

By: . . . . . Grethe Knudsen

Marty Ferguson got himself a swell idea when he decided to try a reunion for the 21sters in and around Chicago. With Fred Fandorf, Dom DeRosa, Bucholtz, and as they say in the funnies--me too-- the idea became a reality. April 21 about 80 people gathered in the banquet room of Hans Neilson's mundane restaurant. Each person had one peculiarity, they were old 21sters or related to them in some fashion, like marriages, or some similar rash relationship.

As each guest arrived, invariably a new howl would rise to the rafters, a howl of glee at seeing a well-known face again. Many of them had not seen each other since France, some earlier than that. The bar was busy and talk was going great guns until 10 PM. We had ordered food for nine but no one had time to eat--they were too busy visiting.

At ten the long smorgassbord was rolled out and we all answered chow call with gusto. Some of the fellows hadn't the faintest idea what the names of some of the delicacies they were eating could be, but they surely enjoyed the super food that Hans puts up.

After the sounds of munching and gulping calmed down Marty greeted the guests and appointed yours truly as toastmaster. Knute "that's me" told the guests that the main purpose of this reunion was to create real fellowship between us and later to make an effort to create a large group from Chicago to attend subsequent reunions at St. Louis, which are national in scope. Then the moth-eaten excuse of feeling strange could not be used to stay away. A sort of protective act for us Chicago folks against the St. Louis folks--all in fun, of course, but nevertheless the ultimate reason being, to have bigger and better reunions.

Cards were read from those unable to attend and it seemed to this here gal that there are going to be an awful lot of new junior 21sters the way the cards read!



"Sorry cannot attend--am going to help my wife have a baby." Hmmm--at that stage it seems to me the man has helped enough and all she needs is a doctor. A long letter from Helen Bowler of the Red Cross from Japan. Also a letter from Tannhauser who is also having a baby.

I introduced several of the folks from far away, told them about our little problems at this, our first reunion, and promised them that all would be just so next time. The guests were most enthusiastic about another reunion (we plan them to be semi-annual) insisted they couldn't see that everything was not just perfect. We were all very well satisfied with the affair.

Drs. Bernie Green and Mrs. Green, Alex. Berman and Mrs. Berman and 'lil ole' pussy Katz and Zene and his wife were all there. Dr. Goldberg was away and could not attend. Some of the wives were a little bashful, their husbands got to reminiscing and forgot about them. But we soon remedied that and got everyone talking to everyone. We want the boys to bring their wives, and the wives to feel at home so this can be a semi-annual party which the wives can enjoy too.

Irene Steplyk came late. She has been very ill with a nervous breakdown and is not entirely well but enjoyed seeing everyone. The gang looked good. The men seemed prosperous and their wives were outfitted in the height of fashion. It is nice to see them in their element, where they aren't just another soldier, but individuals with definite personalities that you can enjoy exploring.

We drank several toasts to PEACE but I guess we did not have the right mixture. It was a successful reunion and plans are about completed for the next on which I shall report immediately and not four months later.

Had a letter from Alice Kokrda Lewis. Her husband Jim is in the regular army and they live in Aurora, Colorado at 1417 Geneva St. They have two children, Jim, Jr. and Linda Gail.

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Reunion notes: Dick Frank whom we left at Fort Benning because of illness saw my story in the Chicago Tribune and came. He has a soft spot for the 21st even if we did desert him ... Marty Ferguson supplied the projector and ran the color film sent

to us by Alice Elmore ... Kenny Miles was striding high, wide and handsome with some snifters giving the proper propulsion but he's such a charming lad you can't get peeved at him ... Baltusis was as round faced and smiling as ever. He's the calmest person I've ever met ... Comorata is in the occultist business - glasses you know - not whiskey and beer but eye ... It is Dom De Rosa who has the other glasses in his tavern on Fullerton Avenue ... Reunion guests were: K. D. & Mrs. Austin; Edward & Mrs. Baltusis; Robert & Mrs. Baner; Dr. & Mrs. Alex Berman; Joseph & Mrs. Braam; Glenn Brady; Ray Bucholtz; George Clancy; Joe & Mrs. Comorata; Elmer Custer; Dom & Mrs. De Rosa; Annie Laurie Dickson; Joe Dongarra; Reinhold Drachenberg; George Dressler; Richard & Mrs. Ebert; Stanley & Mrs. Ehn; Fred & Mrs. Fandorf; Marty Ferguson; W. F. & Mrs. Foss; Richard & Mrs. Frank; C. W. & Mrs. Grosz; Richard & Mrs. Heas; Paul Kaiser; Dr. & Mrs. Bernie Green; Pussy Katz; Ken & Mrs. Happach; Harold C. Kapsch; Geo. Kovarik; Russell Larson; Stuart Larson; Grethe Knudsen; L. Manuszak; Ken Miles; Michael & Mrs. Pilip; Joseph Potaczek; Carl Reinke; John & Mrs. Schultz; Frank Sidote; Joseph Terry; Paul Valko; Herman & Mrs. Van Stedum; Thomas & Mrs. Western; Andrew & Mrs. Zene; Irene Steplyk.

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#### THE CALIFORNIA REUNION

524 Gleason, Monterey Park, California

August 14, 1950

Dear Bill:

It is with a great deal of pleasure that I received word today that The Rouen Post is going to be resumed. We on the Pacific Coast have missed it very much.

The 2nd Annual California Reunion of the 21st General took place on August 4-5-6 and was a bang-up affair. It was a crying shame that more of the gang didn't find the opportunity to take advantage of it. We launched the event on the night of the 4th in the famous Alexandria Hotel with a cocktail party and reception. This was a general get re-acquainted bull session. On the morning and afternoon of the 5th we took out-of-towners on a tour of Los Angeles and that night had a banquet at the Alexandria during which we told many stories of our army days. On Sunday we took the gang to the famous Artist Colony town, Laguna Beach, where we had a terrific lunch, at Victor Hugo's. Enroute they stopped at various scenic points of interest.



We were ably represented by two members of Base Hospital 21, Robert "Shorty" Richner and Ed. Blencowe. Shorty brought his wife and son and Ed came with Mrs. Of course I was there with my spouse and the balance of the roll call included Charles 'Judge' Winterbower, who MC'd the banquet ably assisted by our legal eagle, Barney Kelber. Mrs. Kelber was there too, as were Ella Burlingame, with her husband-to-be ... a very swell guy ... Sherman Mc Dowell, Arthur and Bernie Nie, Charles Sparks and frau, Isabelle Kurtz, Laura Kruse, Mr. & Mrs. Morry Weissman, Alice Elmore Nelson and her swell hubby, Eldon, Betty Atkins, Bert Franco, Jim Hubbard, Bob Love, Syd Levy, Metta Baxter, Don Farrar, Joe Puc and Sarah Barret.

Next time we hope more of you will be able to make it. The weather was perfect and we had a whale of a lot of fun.

Sincerely, Dave Hollander.

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Editor's Note! Looks like the spirit of the 21sts around the continent. Now, if the gang in the east could have a big round-up and report, the larger groups will have had reunions.

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#### DR. WALTER FISCHEL

One of B. H. 21's best loved members, Dr. Walter Fischel passed away a few weeks ago, after a heart attack. He had been ill only a short while and until the end was active in the profession he loved so well ... Internal Medicine.

Lt. Col. Fischel was head of the Medical Section of Base Hospital Unit 21 serving with the British at Rouen, France during World War I.

For many years he headed the staff of St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital in St. Louis. Each morning, when not out of the city, he could be found there making his routine check-up, exchanging pleasantries with the personnel and patients. He continued this practice long after he was advised by his personal physician ... to slow down.

Dr. Fischel also served on the staffs of The Washington University School of Medicine and Barnes Hospital.

Socially, professionally and civically prominent, his many friends well high filled the spacious Christ Church Cathedral for the simple yet beautiful Episcopal service conducted by Bishop Scarlett. It was a fine tribute to a

scholar, a soldier and a gentleman

Dr. Fischel's passing leaves a great void within the ranks of former members of B.H. 21. We join with the family in their hour of sorrow.

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#### ANOTHER B.H. 21 MEMBER HAS PASSED AWAY

Zephirin J. Guilbeault, known to his contemporaries of B.H. 21 as "le sergent" because of his French ancestry, passed away on January 29, 1950 at the ripe old age of 74 years. Sergeant Guilbeault had been retired for many years, living at Crystal City, Mo., and before, on a small farm near Festus, Mo. Several years ago the group spent a very pleasant Sunday there.

Guilbeault saw service in the Spanish-American War as well as World War I. His fine personality endeared him to all who knew him and that went double for his B.H. 21 associates.

His passing continues to thin the ranks of B.H. 21 and is an irreparable loss which we share with the members of his family.

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#### THIS SPACE RESERVED FOR DR. ERNST

Dr. Ernst makes the news pages so frequently that if we used all of the stories on him that we have in our files we could fill these columns.

Earlier this year Dr. Ernst who is State Cancer Society President was honored at the annual campaign meeting of the Missouri Division at Jefferson City, Mo. Dr. G. Edgar Virden of Kansas City, immediate past president of the Missouri Division and long a leader in Missouri in cancer control, presented a scroll and plaque to Dr. Ernst. Dr. Virden praised Dr. Ernst for his contributions to the society's program and for his work in cancer research.

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Dr. and Mrs. Ernst spent two months in Europe attending meetings and sight-seeing. They included Rouen, France in their itinerary and sent us a card from which we quote: Old Rouen, France  
Dear Bill:

7/18/50

What a day at Rouen and what a ruined place. Entire water front from the Cathedral to Seine is wrecked and I mean wrecked. Not a single house or castle remaining. No Amnia a la Sole or Brasserie, Opera or Snails left. Cathedral gutted. Just finished my paper in French at Cancer Congress and feel 'high.' Going to Congress Banquet tonight. Took 900 feet of colored movies



of Rouen also race track. Manager of race track was 12 years old when we were there. Love to wife. Regards to gang. Lt. Ernst...

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While attending open house at the Ernst's the New Year Day last we met a gentleman from Chicago who is a neighbor to the Ernst's out Montana way. He told us the story of the Christmas card which shows Dr. Eddie holding a tea kettle. It is good and we shall reprint it when space permits.

\*\*\*\*\* \* \*\*\*\*\*

Reprinted from the St. Louis Globe-Democrat  
IT HAPPENED HERE

The express clerk at the Webster Groves railroad station telephoned a doctor's wife the other day and said he had a consignment for her from Montana.

Thinking it was something she had left at her ranch there, the woman drove to the station to pick it up.

The consignment turned out, however, to be quite a bit more than she had expected --two horses from her husband's grateful patients.

Editor's note! This could not have been Millie Ernst by any stretch of imagination?

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#### P E R S O N A L S

Charles Jablonsky, First Sergeant of BH 21 has taken a turn for the worse and was removed to VA Hospital at Jefferson Barracks. The old top-kick was in critical condition for two weeks but again has knocked the old reaper back on his heels. A visit from old and new 21sters would be about the best tonic we know of for this great guy. His ever faithful wife spends most of her waking hours traveling to and from ... and attending to good old Jabby. If ever there has been a more loyal, faithful and devoted wife ... we must be shown ... in our book the blue chips still go on Ann Jablonsky ... win .. place ... and show, if we may be pardoned for using this vernacular ...

Ed Manley of the 21st General has retired from the business world for reasons of health. When we last talked with Ed he was planning on entering St. Louis University this Fall ... to work for a Master's Degree ... We all wish him the best of luck and urge him to keep up the old chin ... and to carry on.

Here we have a couple of swell men, the best that come, with fine wives and

children, guys would go to no end to help others ... stricken with maladies ... curable, yes, but the progress slow. Jabby has passed his zenith but Ed has much before him ... and if their faith counts for anything they'll both win.

Dr. Otto Schwarz, well-known St. Louis gynecologist, father of Dr. Henry Schwarz, II, of the 21st General and on the staff of The Washington University School of Medicine and Barnes Hospital ... was laid to rest recently.

A card from Mae Gluck reports the usual interesting vacation at Atlantic City ... Not too long ago we received at our office a rather large box mailed from Mattoon, Ill. Opening it we found it contained a collection of data, pictures, et cetera from May File Harned. Since there was no explanation as to why it had been sent to us we were quite puzzled for a little while but considerably relieved when we received a card from her which read: "Please change my address, Mrs. George B. Harned, 305 So. 21st St., Mattoon, Ill, to VA Center, Miller Cottage, Dayton, Ohio. I do not want to miss a single copy ... May File Harned, 21sters ... Mrs. Ella Estes Duncan also lives at the center ... Lt. Jules W. Silberberg, son of Jules V. of B.H. 21, both members of Rouen Post 242, made the headlines recently. Jules has been in the thick of the fighting in Korea leading reconnaissance patrols of tanks and jeeps. He wrote: "the Reds outsmarted me once, they won't do it again, I'll guarantee that," quoted the handsome young officer,

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CATCHING UP WITH OUR LETTERS AND NOTES  
Dear Bill:

I may not get a chance to write very soon for several months. My assistant manager, Maj. Wm. J. Dann, Jr., former Adjutant and Acting Executive Officer, and "Master of the Boar Hounds," of the 21st Gen., is leaving us to report to the VA Hospital, Oakland, Calif., as Manager. He has been with me over seven years and certainly seems like one of the family. I am certain his many friends will be glad to hear of this well-deserved promotion. May his new responsibilities not weigh too heavily upon him!

I am certain somebody will be glad to know that some time ago I received a long overdue questionnaire from Edith and Helen Carlson, Box 122, RD No. 2, Kersey, Pa. Edith is now Mrs. Elmer S. Johnson and has



a son, Paul, aged 3. They were with the 21st Gen., in Bou-Hanifia from June to November, 1943, and served later in the 45th Gen. Hosp., and the 52nd. Station Hospital, both neighbors of ours. I received a snapshot of both girls standing beside a broken pillar in a ruin on Capril I don't remember seeing the place during either of my two, too brief visits to that captivating Air Force hangout.

I imagine they would like to have a letter from some old friend in the outfit.

Bill, I was sorry to learn of your automobile accident. I hope that you are now fully recovered, and so is Mrs. Engel. If you get down in this neck of the woods don't pass us up.

Regards, Lee D. Cady.

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Dear Colonel Cady:

Thank you for your post card. I'm glad to know where you are. I read The Rouen Post with great pleasure and pass it on to Pennington Kemp from Louisville who was in Medical Detachment of Base Hospital 21 in World War I. We both serve on entertainment committee of Louisville A.R.C. at the VA Hospital here--that was how I found out about his service. Isn't that a coincidence? My address which you have is wrong, too. It should be Upper River Road, Louisville, Ken. instead of Glenview. Please remember me to Maj. Dann. Don't any of you ever come through Louisville? The only one's I've seen are H. Agress--in 1945 and Frances Barksdale who visited me for Derby in '48. Please come through.

Devotedly, Elizabeth Schwab.

\*\*\*\* \* \*\*\*\*

Remember, she was one of our most indefatigable workers. L.D.C.

\*\*\*\* \* \*\*\*\*

Dear Bill:

I am making a contribution to The Rouen Post for the very reason that I am most proud to be a member of the 21st. G.H. and regret that I was not a member from the beginning. However, for the, what seems a short period now, in which I was active with the unit, I can truthfully say that those were the most pleasant days of my Army Career. Sincerely, Floy Hancock.  
2322 West 20th St., Topeka, Kansas.

\*\*\*\* \* \*\*\*\*

Dear Sir.

I was formerly M. Sgt. Charles E. Brandt, Mess Sergeant, 21st General Hospital in the U.S., England and North Africa, serial number then RA 6276857. This is a request to get on the 21st Gen. Hosp. publication list.

Have here a letter from Col. Lee D. Cady, now Manager of VA Hospital at Houston, Texas who told me to write you to get on this list.

I am now here at Brooke Gen. Hosp. to go before the boards for a retirement disability. Expect to be here for quite some time. Below is my address.  
M. Sgt. Charles E. Brandt, Maxwell Homes,  
1211 Tarter Street, Pasadena, Texas.

\*\*\*\* \* \*\*\*\*

HELP PLEASE, DOGHOUSE BECKONS!

My new bosses, Drs. Beam, Kelley and Lattner, may react most unfavorably to this extravagant issue. This was to have been two sheets, four pages only, to feel the pulses of our members. Having so much interesting material on hand I concluded the sin would be greater were I not to mention the interesting names which appear. No doubt, the editor will be consigned to a multiple doghouse with barbed wire enclosure.

About the only way you can appease these watch-dogs of the treasury is to come to my rescue with some unheralded "dough" of the type Uncle Sam issues as Treasury notes. Just a few bucks multiplied by a number of our contemporaries from whom we have never heard may help to keep me out of confinement. I do not like being in the doghouse even if it is plush-lined and heated, so please try to keep me out.

Should this issue meet with popular approval nothing short of disaster will prevent me from getting out a paper monthly. This sort of thing requires about one-tenth of the time and effort that I have put in on the "slick" issues as referred to by my bosses.

Bill Engel

Address the same: 220 North Fourth Street  
St. Louis 2, Missouri

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